

13605 Jamieson Place
Germantown, MD 20874-1475
July 27, 1999

2256 '99 AUG -3 AIO:27

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket numbers 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197

Dockets Management Branch:

As recognized by the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service, public health concerns such as increased shedding of *Salmonella enteritidis* are rased by the forced molting of laying hens. It is imperative that the FDA do more than put bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and regulate egg refrigeration temperatures. The FDA must prohibit the practice of forced molting because of the scientific evidence that it promotes disease by destroying the starving hens' immune systems.

The FDA has jurisdiction to ban farm practices that injure human health. Forced molting is a primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs and human consumers. Forced molting must be banned. The FDA was petitioned in April 1998 to ban forced molting. This petition should be granted immediately.

Thank you,

Erin J. Marcus

Judy Marcus

96P-0418

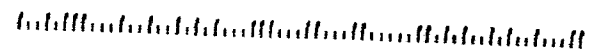
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Erin J. Marcus
13605 Jamieson Place
Germantown, MD 20874-1475



DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (HFA-305)
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
5630 FISHERS LANE, ROOM 1061
ROCKVILLE, MD 20852

20852/00003



CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ C 26

See File Number: 97P-0197/ C 27

96P-0418/ C 26